

IOWA CANADA GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLAN

July 1, 2002

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

This plan provides basic principles and strategies to guide the management of giant Canada geese in Iowa in the context of the management strategies for other Canada goose populations in the Mississippi Flyway. It is not intended to dictate management policies, but to assist in guiding decision-making processes.

GOAL

To manage the population of giant Canada geese in Iowa at a sustainable level that provides maximum recreational opportunities consistent with social acceptability.

OBJECTIVE 1

Manage Iowa's giant Canada goose population at a level that will improve recreational opportunities, both consumptive and nonconsumptive, encourage population growth in areas with underutilized habitat, and permit a sustainable annual harvest of approximately 60,000 Canada geese from the population.

Strategies

1. Annually monitor changes in regional populations of giant Canada geese in Iowa through breeding pair and gosling surveys.
2. Annually monitor numbers and distribution of Canada geese staging in Iowa during the fall.
3. Monitor the magnitude as well as the temporal and geographical distributions of Canada goose harvests in Iowa.
4. Manage areas where Canada goose hunting seasons remain closed (closed areas) to maintain self-sustaining regional giant Canada goose populations, distribute geese and associated recreational opportunities across the state, and attract migrating Canada geese so that Canada goose use days annually exceed 10 million during the October-December period.
5. Develop and implement harvest regulations that will maintain viable regional populations of giant Canada geese in Iowa and provide optimal recreational opportunities within the constraints of the management objectives for other Canada goose populations in the Mississippi Flyway.
6. Provide landowners an opportunity to hunt resident giant Canada geese on their properties within closed areas when regional population and fall goose use objectives have been achieved.

OBJECTIVE 2

To improve coexistence and reduce conflicts between people and giant Canada geese by assisting the public in managing injurious goose activities and/or controlling goose populations in special circumstances.

Strategies

1. Monitor Canada geese in Iowa as specified in Strategies 1 and 2 under Objective 1 of this document.
2. DNR staff will assist the public in dealing with injurious goose activities in a consistent manner using the policies and procedures outlined in Appendix A (Policy And Procedures For Addressing Injurious Canada Goose Activities) as basic guidelines.
3. Monitor the magnitude and distribution of injurious goose activities as well as the staff time and costs associated with assisting the public in controlling these activities.
4. Periodically review policies and procedures for addressing injurious Canada goose activities and revise as necessary.

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